LAVENDER®

Since 1995

Have A Radical Reception With **VP.STUDIO**

Jazz Up Your Jewelry With **Diamonds Direct MN**

Say "I Do" To Rainbow Wedding Stories

2018 FALL LOVE & MARRIAGE

610 LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
MINNESOTA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 11-24, 2018

NEW! WE ARE ON ISSUU
READ US ONLINE AND IN THE APP!

JOIN 82.9K OF US ON TWITTER @BIGGAYNEWS

NEXT LAVENDER'S FIRST THURSDAY: 11/01/18 AT THE OFFICE PUB & GRILL

LAKEVILLE 952.435.3399
PLYMOUTH 763.551.3544
ROSEVILLE 651.633.7042
WOODBURY 651.730.0321
DULUTH 218.723.2302
ROCHESTER 507.780.1611

schneidermans.com

You're not new to health care. Neither are we.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota has been offering Medicare since it began in 1965. We can help you get the information you need to choose the Medicare plan that's right for you.

MN

Trusted locally for 85 years

Talk to your agent or contact us:
bluecrossmn.com/medicareready
1-866-812-1541 or **(651) 662-7900** TTY **711**
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time, daily

Plans available in the service area. Blue Cross offers PPO, Cost and PDP plans with Medicare contracts. Enrollment in these Blue Cross plans depends on contract renewal. H2461_082418JJ17_M CMS Accepted 09/03/2018 H5959_082418JJ18_M CMS Accepted 09/03/2018 S5743_082718FF02_M CMS Accepted 09/03/2018

Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota and Blue Plus® are nonprofit independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Twin Cities Bridal Show

The *Wedding* dream expo

JANUARY 27, 2019
SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE

PRODUCED BY
The Wedding Guys

Special 25% OFF Discount for any of our shows, simply use Promo Code: LAVENDER at TheWeddingGuys.com

unveiled™

OCTOBER 21, 2018
JANUARY 13, 2019
ROCHESTER MAYO CIVIC CENTER

NOVEMBER 11, 2018
FEBRUARY 17, 2019
MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

PRESENTED BY The Wedding Guys

YOU CAN BANK ON

INCLUSIVITY WITH US.

Some things come standard at Associated Bank, like excellent customer care and a commitment to having a workplace that mirrors the communities we serve.

Visit **AssociatedBank.com** to find a location near you.

Experience the better side of banking™

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, ASSOCIATED BANK'S CONTACT CENTERS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY J.D. POWER FOR PROVIDING **"AN OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE"** FOR THE LIVE PHONE CHANNEL.

AssociatedBank

J.D. Power 2017 Certified Contact Center Program℠ recognition is based on successful completion of an audit and exceeding a customer satisfaction benchmark through a survey of recent servicing interactions. For more information, visit www.jdpower.com/ccc.
Member FDIC. (8/18) 12681

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

FEATURE: FALL LOVE & MARRIAGE
12: VP.STUDIO Photo Booth
18: Diamonds Direct MN
22: GLBT Divorce Resolution

24: Wedding Story: Eric and Chris
30: Wedding Story: Britnee and Kelsey

36: Real Weddings: Amy and Mary
38: Real Weddings: Todd and Jesse
40: Real Weddings: Sarah and Jodi
42: Real Weddings: Amber and Sydney

OUR LAVENDER
10 From the Editor
11 A Word in Edgewise

OUR SCENE
44 Travel: Missouri

OUR RESOURCES
48 Community Connection
49 The Network

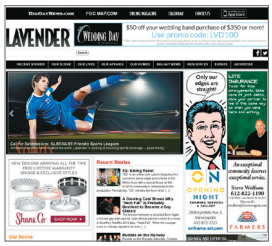
Page 24: Photo by Trina Moore, Page 12: Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO, Page 18: Photo courtesy of Diamonds Direct MN, Page 36: Photo by Melissa Hesse.

ON THE COVER
Britnee Dordal and Kelsey Lied are just one of the resplendent rainbow newlyweds featured in the 2018 Fall Love & Marriage issue.
Photo by Autumn Lee Studios

ONLINE

Online Magazine

Prizes



LavenderMagazine.com

Available on www.LavenderMagazine.com: Our Online Magazine, read it on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or DROID. Prizes, register to win. Exclusive content only online, not in print.

Join us as we welcome Fall with our newly heated patio

BEER · WINE · DESSERT
BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER

MISSISSIPPI WILDE RIVERFRONT
CAFE & SPIRITS

65 Main St SE, Minneapolis
612.331.4544
wildecafe.com · fb.com/wildecafe

HABITATION™
Furnishing + Design

4317 Excelsior Blvd. St. Louis Park, MN 55416 952.426.3548

www.habitationdesign.com | www.designerrehab.com

TACORI

EXCLUSIVELY AT

ARTHUR'S JEWELERS

WEDDING RING WEEK
AUGUST 1-4
1717 LEXINGTON AVE N, ROSEVILLE MN

LAVENDER®

Volume 24, Issue 610 • October 11-24, 2018

Editorial

Managing Editor Chris Tarbox 612-436-4692
Editorial Assistants Linda Raines 612-436-4660, Kassidy Tarala
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Contributors Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Jennifer Parello, Randy Stern, John Townsend, Bradley Traynor, Carla Waldemar

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
Account Executives
Josh Elmore 612-436-4697
Nathan Johnson 612-436-4695
Richard Kranz 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate: George Holdgrafer
Sales & Event Administration:
Linda Raines 612-436-4660
Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
National Sales Representatives
Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

Creative

Digital Director Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes
Lavender Studios Mike Hnida

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666
Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664
Distribution Manager/Administrative Assistant Samantha Schaller 612-436-4660
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015), Donald Tardif (1942-2018)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435; or e-mail <editor@lavendermagazine.com>.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

Lavender Media, Inc.
7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4685 **Fax**
612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**
612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**

LAVENDER MAGAZINE.COM
LavenderMagazine.com

BIG GAY NEWS .COM
BigGayNews.com

mmpa
Lavender 2016 Magazine of the Year

Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2018. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender® Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender® Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

mint

MINT ORTHODONTICS
Geoff Sudit DDS, MS

Get the perfect smile you've always wanted.

Plus
- Invisalign treatment
- Fewer office visits
- Customizable payment plans

612.509.6468
MintOrtho.com

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and your home, so why not save money in the process? Call today for a free, no obligation look at auto and home discounts from American Family.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®
All your protection under one roof®

EQUAL HOUSING INSURER

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008

Dawn Bartell Agency
4649 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554

FIND YOUR CIRCLE OF *Love*

SCHEHERAZADE JEWELERS
GALLERIA • 69TH & FRANCE • EDINA
sjewelers.com • 952.926.2455

MICHAEL BONDANZA
MODERN CLASSICS

18k Yellow Gold Diamond, or Sapphire Rings, prices start at $885

Open-minded • Respected • Experienced

Calandra
REVERING
for Ramsey County Judge

Flip the ballot over. A vote for Revering is a vote to remove a Pawlenty appointee.

Vote November 6th

www.reveringforjudge.com

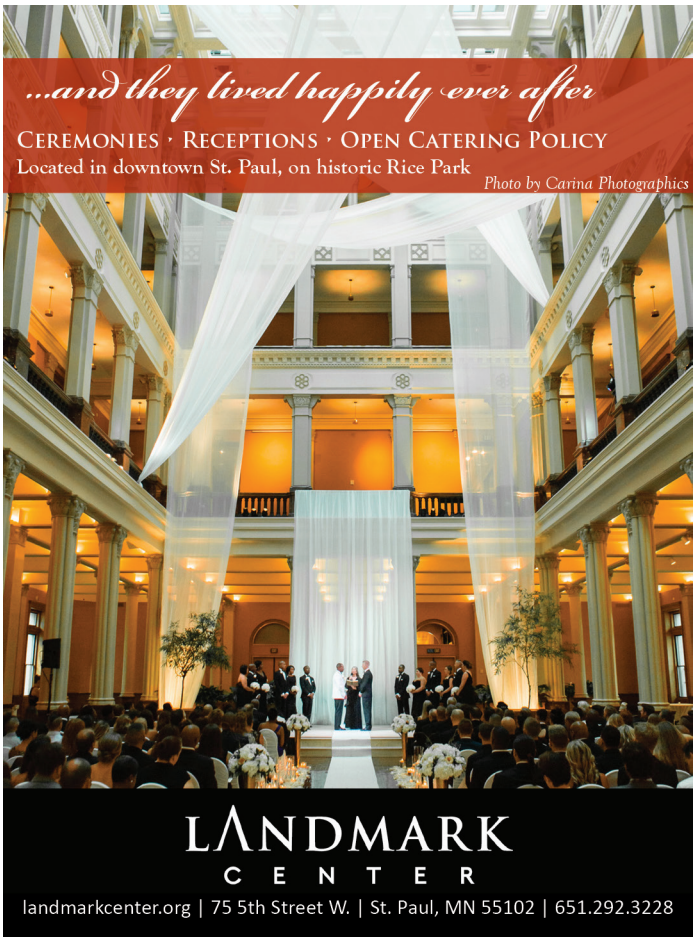
Prepared and paid for by the Committee to Elect Calandra Revering for Ramsey County Judge. P.O. Box 120737, New Brighton, MN 55112

FULL TIME STUDENT • PART TIME SOLDIER

- $20K ENLISTMENT BONUS (Based on MOS and eligibility)
- 100% COLLEGE TUITION (Based on U of MN rate)
- WORK EXPERIENCE
- FULL TIME BENEFITS

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
NATIONALGUARD.com
We live here | We work here | We serve here

SCAN with your photo app



OUR LAVENDER

FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

Going To The Chapel

Fall is here! And while some of us may lament the passing of the warmer summer months, others delight at the prospect of cozy long-sleeved clothing, hot apple cider, and all those vibrant autumn colors. And for many, it's prime time for tying the knot.

With the 2018 Fall Love & Marriage Issue, we highlight a number of recent nuptials in our fabulous rainbow community, including two beautiful wedding stories of Eric and Chris Herr-Madsen, and Britnee Dordal and Kelsey Lied.

We also take a look at two local companies that aim to enhance any wedding experience: the interactive photo and video wizards of VP.STUDIO, who can spice up your wedding reception with unforgettable results; and the fantastic gem-crafters of Diamond Direct MN, who can conjure up the wedding jewelry of your dreams.

But as we focus on relationships, we also discuss the topic of GLBT divorce and the best means of an amicable resolution; and finally, our travel writer Carla Waldemar takes us on a trip to the Midwestern marvel known as Missouri.

So let's celebrate the joyous unions of our community, and here's to many, many more! ■

Start your history together in the heart of Minnesota's lake country. Breezy Point Resort provides the perfect setting for friends and family to gather and celebrate your love.

Breezy Point
RESORT

800.432.3777 | breezypointresort.com

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage, Then…

While "Baby Carriage" no longer must necessarily compete the triad of the old playground K-I-S-S-I-N-G song lyric, and today babies are no longer *de rigeur* to complete socially sanctioned marriage, many same-sex couples (along with straight counterparts) do continue to envision a future with offspring.

Yes, there are still naysayers hotly opposing gay love, gay marriage, and especially gay parenthood of either natural-born or adopted children. But I'm not tackling that topic here, not pointing out they'd prefer to see a child institutionalized than embraced by a loving, gay family, nor how ill-informed… but I digress. I'm talking here about wedding-bound gay couples; those potential parents-to-be.

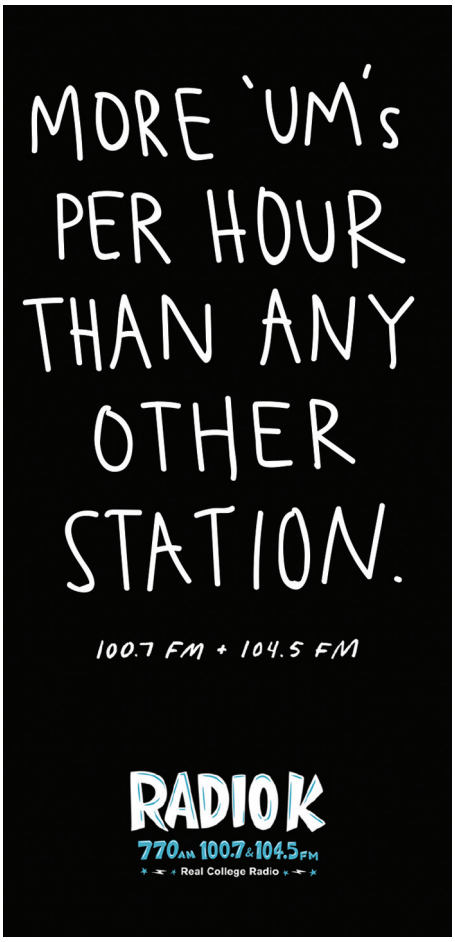
The standard response to "Do you want a boy or girl?" is, "We just want it to be healthy." Of course. But doesn't everyone have some wish, overt or secret, they ponder late at night thinking about the newcomer?

Gender preference is one, but perhaps, "Don't let it look like my sister Sue, or my brother Bob—that'd be awful!" or even, "I hope it looks like me!" There are hopes we didn't know we held until they're dashed. Some are particular to the parent's specific situation. I recently read the admission of a second-generation deaf man, married to a deaf woman. Their first two children were deaf, but the third was hearing, an actual disappointment to the father. Of course he loved the child, but its very "normalcy" was cause for chagrin.

What if you—with or without your explicit realization—want a little musician but get a jock? Or vice-versa. Or you produced a boy ballerina and a girl basketball prodigy?

I didn't have children, but we all were children once, and it would be the rare adult who didn't feel their parents had some agenda for them, often experiencing different expectations from each parent. My own father was given to shaking his head and remarking from time to time in my presence, "Children are hostages to fortune."

As to love and marriage, Sinatra crooned that "You can't have one without the other." Maybe. One hopes, but that's another discussion. As far as the "baby and carriage" choice, I'd say, paraphrase and personalize Mr. Rogers: assure your kids often, "We love you just the way you are." ■



The Engineers Of Play

VP.STUDIO offers a wild, wonderful wedding reception experience like no other.

BY CHRIS TARBOX

VP.STUDIO, previously known as Playatta, is a state-of-the-art photo and video booth experience perfect for weddings and other events. Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO

If you've been to your fair share of wedding receptions, you know to prepare yourself for an energetic, if not outright raucous, time with the newlyweds and your fellow guests. Whether it's laughing it up with old friends, breaking it down on the dance floor, or having one too many at the cash bar, you're guaranteed to have a night to remember.

With the addition of Feedback.video's revolutionary VP.STUDIO experience, however, your wedding night adventure will be unbeatable, and even tweetable.

Originally founded as Playatta a decade ago by founder Hal Lovemelt, VP.STUDIO—recently absorbed into Lovemelt's creative-technology umbrella company Feedback.video—is a radically imaginative photo and video booth apparatus used to create special memories for guests at events ranging from private corporate events and bar mitzvahs to weddings and dance parties.

"It kind of looks like a traditional photo booth, except an open-air photo booth," Lovemelt says. "It's a booth with an actual photographer there to make sure that all of the pictures are perfect and take them manually. And that's a big part of our philosophy, too: the interaction and the human element. When we interact with our guests, we're helping them come out of their shell and do some posturing and posing with each other."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

LARSMONT
COTTAGES ON LAKE SUPERIOR

GRAND
SUPERIOR
ON LAKE SUPERIOR

CARIBOU HIGHLANDS

ODYSSEYRESORTS.COM/WEDDINGS

The VP.STUDIO booth includes props, a wind machine, and confetti to create a stunning array of photos and videos. Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO

Lovemelt, a Minneapolis resident with years of experience as a VJ and creative tech wizard under his belt, started the former Playatta alongside his then-girlfriend (and now his wife) Kara, his brother Geoffrey, and longtime friend Matt Bardins. Lovemelt cut his teeth improving and revamping his unique VFX tech at a variety of venues ranging from dance nights and marketing events to cable access television and even Target Field.

"We've been evolving what we offer over the years," he says. "It all started with a strong passion and desire to bring the magic of being on camera and the fun that you can do on camera to the masses. We started with photos, but when we moved into videos, things kind of spiraled in terms of creative applications."

So how does the VP.STUDIO experience work? Guests begin by entering their phone number on a touch screen on top of a prop table, which also houses the lighting system. Then the photographer cues up the partygoers to begin taking a few photos, followed by recording six seconds' worth of video.

"We gear up, we turn on the high-powered fan, we throw the confetti in the air, and people just get weird with their props and each other," Lovemelt says. "And that turns into a 15-second video that gets sent to them within minutes, along with the photos."

The whole experience allows guests to be as goofy, wild, and hilarious as they want, making for an even greater wedding experience.

You can turn even the most dapper events into a party of a lifetime with VP.STUDIO. Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO

Lovemelt says that approximately 50 percent of the events he services are weddings.

"Weddings are really fun because people really get loose and crazy, and they're with their friends so the creativity gets a little intense," he says.

As far as his technology goes, Lovemelt never rests on his laurels, always tinkering with the tech and evolving it.

"I've rebuilt the software myself from the ground up five times, using different software situations," he says. "I'd call it state-of-the-art in the video booth industry. The videos that pop out are timed to the music, and the effects are really fun and creative high-end effects produced in the software that we developed."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Magnolia Blossom
Cruises on the Mississippi
and Minnesota Rivers
We specialize in small groups of up to 110 people.
Magnolia Blossom
Cruise The Mississippi
Magnolia Blossom Cruises
Watergate Marina
2500 Crosby Farm Road, St. Paul, MN 55116
(651) 690-2739
www.magnoliablossom.net

EVENTS &
CELEBRATIONS
Host your special event at
Golden Valley's newest full-service venue
Centrally located with expansive golf course and sunset views, the Bassett Creek Room at Brookview will offer a modern, versatile indoor and outdoor space for all occasions.
Recreation. Relaxation. Celebration.
BROOKVIEW
GOLDEN VALLEY
brookviewgoldenvalley.com
BROOKVIEW
backyard
The west metro's newest indoor playground. Book your birthday party now!
THREE ONE SIX
BAR + GRILL
BROOKVIEW
GOLF & LAWN BOWLING
Summer
18-hole
Par 3
Driving range
Lawn bowling
Fire pit
Winter
Fat tire biking
Cross-country skiing
Skijouring
Disc golf
316 Brookview Parkway S, Golden Valley, MN . 763-512-2300

Jewelry by
Johan
JEWELRY RE-IMAGINED
Handmade in Minnesota with hundreds of unique materials, including genuine meteorite, dinosaur bone, and more.
Free design consultations available!
651.321.9267
jewelrybyjohan.com

VP.STUDIO offers wedding guests memories of a lifetime with its interactive photo booth. Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO

The price point for having VP.STUDIO at one's event is also competitive.

"There's add-ons, and there's a time element, so if you keep it at the four-hour mark, we consider our pricing to be very competitive," Lovemelt says. "Especially when it comes to the fact that all of our software is proprietary and we've sending all of our content directly to guests. So the value is all there."

Lovemelt and his crew have also been tight-knit with the local GLBT community. In fact, their first slow-mo video booth test took place at a gay friend's wedding.

"It was amazing," says Lovemelt. "Those are going to be the best-dressed weddings anyway!"

Having worked with many GLBT performers and creative types over the years, Lovemelt says that VP.STUDIO's services are always welcome to be utilized by the rainbow community. It's just one example of the ethos of the company: an inclusive environment fostering a fun, unforgettable experience where you can bring out your inner child.

"I'd say that we are technology-driven engineers of play," says Lovemelt. "The name 'Playatta' is actually a fusion between 'play' and 'Yatta!', which is the Japanese term for 'Yay!'"

The slow-motion video booth is a popular service offered by VP.STUDIO. Photo courtesy of VP.STUDIO

And even though the name has recently changed, the mission remains the same.

"So you want a way to capture the memories of your event, but you also may be overlooking the other aspect of that, which is creating an environment for the moments that you're capturing to be as crazy and fun and weird as possible," Lovemelt says. "And that's where we come in. We are there to work with your guests, get weird, get creative, and make beautiful videos together."

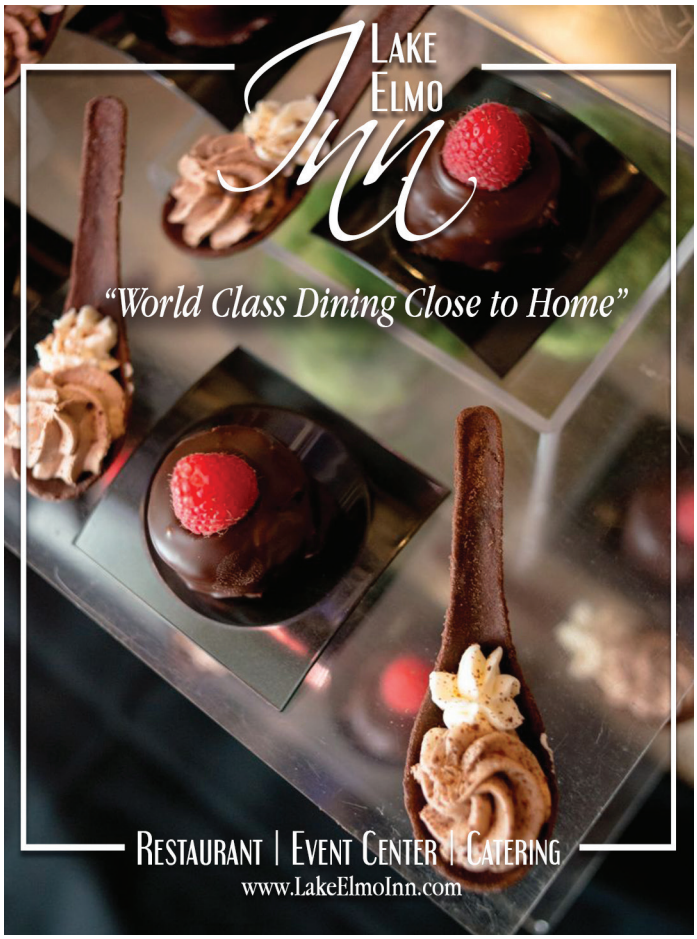
If you're interested in spicing up your wedding reception and other events with the play engineers of VP.STUDIO, visit playatta.com, and learn more about Feedback's other services at feedback.video. ■

NEW GILD
JEWELERS

From classic to creative, bespoke engagement and wedding jewelry that's truly extraordinary.

Your Trusted Jewelers

4250 Upton Ave S Mpls, MN 55410 612.402.0561 www.newgild.com



LOVE IS LOVE

- Black Polished Dance Floor
- 5 Complimentary Up Lights in Ballroom
- Wedding Tasting
- Luxurious Suite for 2 Nights
- Elegant White Floor Length Linen
- Cake Cutting

3200 East 81st Street, Bloomington, MN 55425 • 952-922-1234 • mandy.heathcote-curry@hyatt.com

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Diamonds Direct MN offers personalized wedding bands as part of their services. Photo courtesy of Diamonds Direct MN

Diamonds To Die For

John Sorich IV shares Diamonds Direct MN's sparkling history and offerings.

Let's face it, diamonds are everyone's best friend. This is a concept that was fully understood by John Sorich III, who started Diamonds Direct MN in 1981 after becoming a jeweler in 1970. Sorich III, who became interested in the jewelry business after returning home from the Vietnam War, dazzled Minnesotans with beautiful diamonds and other jewelry. Now, the business continues to glisten in the 50th and France neighborhood with the craftsmanship of Sorich III's son, John Sorich IV.

Sorich says Diamonds Direct MN does exactly what it sounds like: delivers diamonds directly to consumers. Diamonds Direct MN offers diamonds at wholesale prices in finished jewelry and custom one-of-a-kind pieces.

"Now that I have returned home from living overseas in Italy since 2011, I now bring precision diamond setting and hand engraving to the list of services we provide," Sorich says. "We also do appraisals at the least expensive fee in the metro, $35 per item, and the first item is free if you've not had our services before."

Sorich trained in Vicenza, Italy as a goldsmith and apprenticed in hand engraving for two years in Venice. He also studied optical diamond setting for three months in Antwerp, Belgium at the Alexandre Optical Diamond Setting School, which is located in the Diamond District of Antwerp. Sorich recently graduated from the Gemological Institute of America in Carlsbad, CA as a graduate gemologist.

With all of that experience—and world travel—under his belt, Sorich is qualified and thrilled to have taken over the family business.

"We work as a family at Diamonds Direct. Both of my sisters have families to raise, and I am taking the lead on running the store with their guidance as what we have combined is a great team of skills and knowledge of the jewelry industry," he says.

Diamonds Direct MN is located on 50th and France in Minneapolis. Photo courtesy of Diamonds Direct MN

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Family Owned

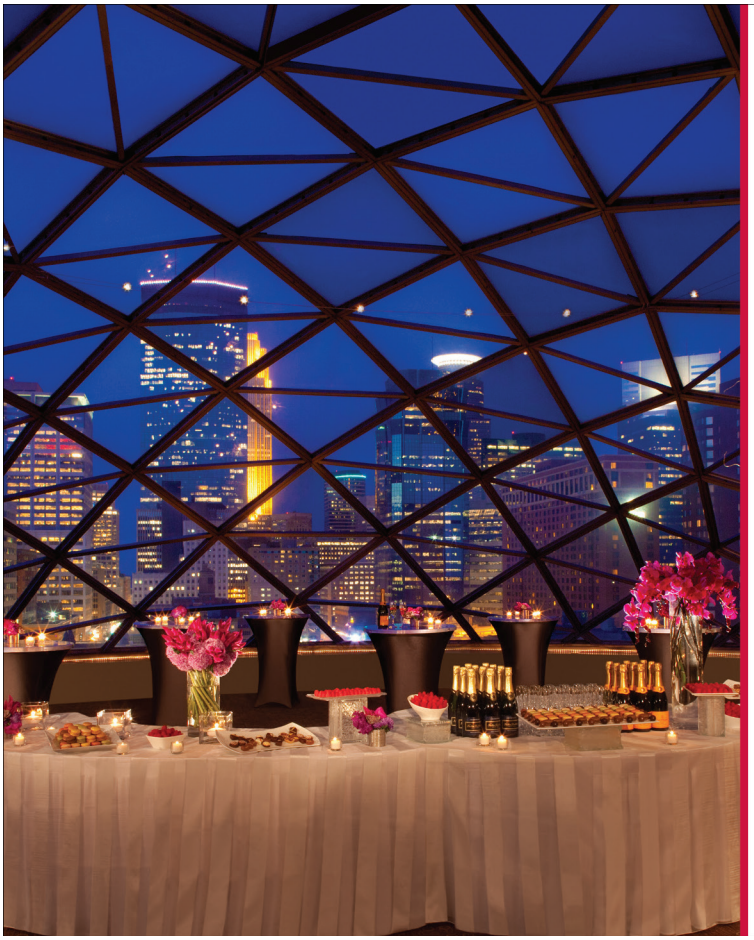
Custom Designs

Inclusive Love

Diamonds Direct MN
5037 France Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

(612) 929-0054
www.diamondsdirectmn.com
John4@diamondsdirectmn.com

@diamondsdirectmn



YOUR LOVE COMES TO LIFE

Filled with hope and excitement, this day is yours and you deserve an experience that reflects your love. Our staff is dedicated to creating an occasion that honors the love you share.

Featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and surrounded by breathtaking city views, our iconic dome is the perfect backdrop for unforgettable ceremonies and receptions. For larger weddings, the Grand Ballroom features dramatic 16 foot ceilings, perfect for a banquet of up to 350 guests.

Enhance your special day in the Loring Park neighborhood with a complimentary champagne toast when you book your wedding at Millennium Minneapolis.

1313 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
+1 612.332.6000
minneapolis.us@millenniumhotels.com

MILLENNIUM
MINNEAPOLIS

Diamonds Direct MN is entirely family-owned, with only one location in Minneapolis. Photo courtesy of Diamonds Direct MN

Sorich says Diamonds Direct MN is different from other jewelry stores because it is entirely family-owned and operated and only has one location. Not to mention, Sorich's expertise on diamonds is unmatchable.

"We are one family-owned brick and mortar store, and we also have a family of veterans who have served in wartime, including my father who served in the Vietnam War and myself, an Iraq War veteran," he said. "The prices that we offer are much lower than what you'll find elsewhere, and our experience that we provide to you means you don't cut at all on craftsmanship or quality."

As a gay man, Sorich is proud to represent the GLBT community in the work he does at Diamonds Direct MN. Sorich says he has seen their GLBT clientele grow more and more since he returned from Italy and took over as the diamond setter and hand engraver. He says he's also shown both his love for the community and unique craftsmanship during Pride.

"We have been growing since I have come home! I have done hand-engraved wedding bands for two of my friends' weddings, and it has been such an honor to be a part of their love stories," Sorich says. "I look forward to much more! I also made a rainbow pride ring that I wore during Minneapolis Gay Pride 2018."

Diamonds Direct MN is open and welcoming to all clientele, and Sorich says they are encouraged by the growing GLBT client base. If you're in the market for a personalized wedding band—or perhaps a recreation of Sorich's unique pride ring—Diamonds Direct MN undoubtedly has what you're looking for.

A local family business with vast experience in diamonds and jewelry making, close ties to the GLBT community, and a reputation for delivering high quality products to all customers, Diamonds Direct MN is unlike any other jewelry store in the area.

For more information, visit Diamonds Direct MN's website at diamondsdirectmn.com. John Sorich IV can be found on Instagram @johnnyoro, and Diamonds Direct MN is on Instagram @diamondsdirectmn. ■

John Sorich IV is a master gemologist and new owner of Diamonds Direct MN. Photo courtesy of Diamonds Direct MN

Diamonds Direct MN
5037 France Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
612-929-0054

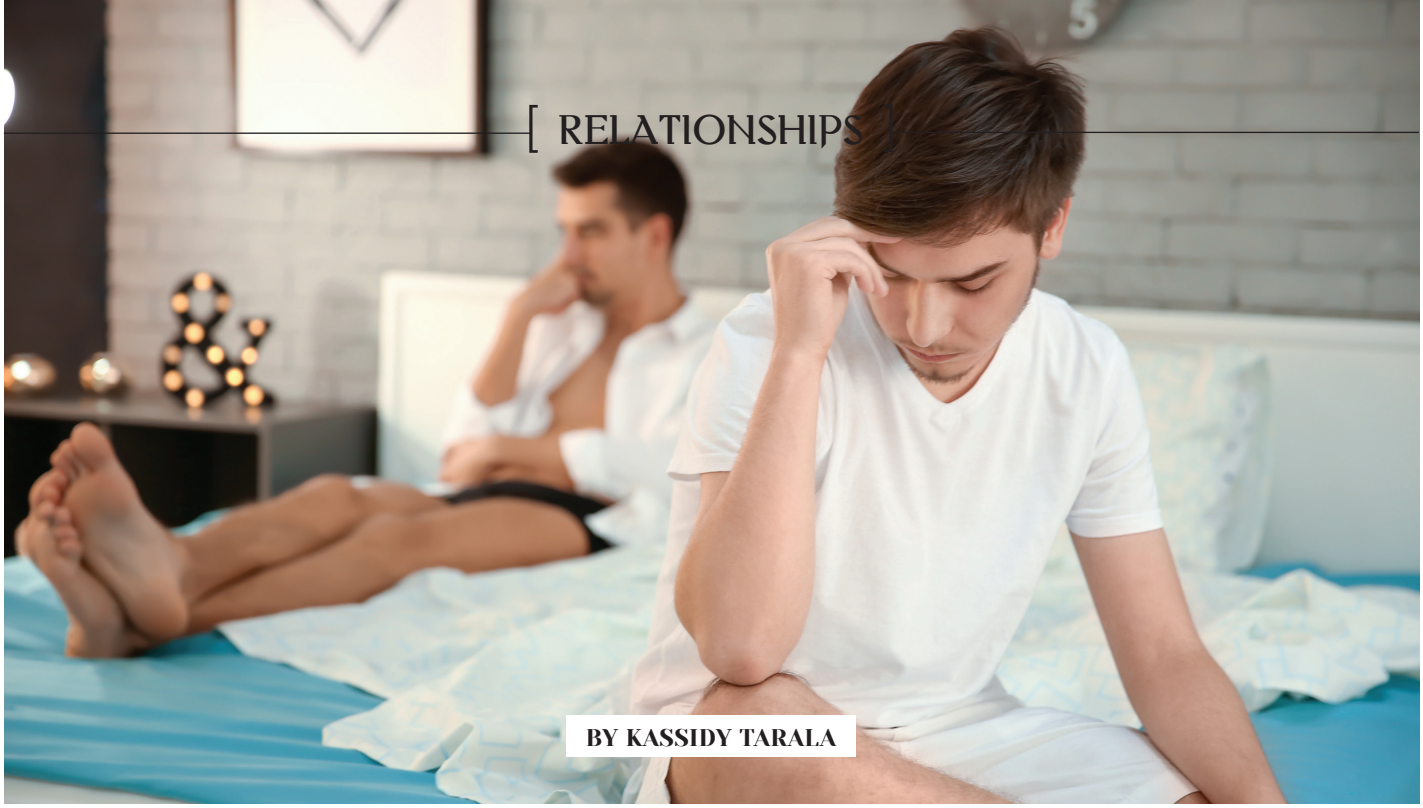
Say "I DO" with Kimpton Grand Hotel Minneapolis

We've always been on your side. Now let us stand at your side. There is no day like your Wedding Day, to stay true to you.

To learn more about ceremonies, celebrations or lovefests with Kimpton Grand Hotel contact Jill Galera at (612) 373-0411 or email Jill.Galera@kimptonhotels.com

615 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 288-8888
grandhotelminneapolis.com
#GrandHotelMpls

· KIMPTON ·
THE GRAND HOTEL
MINNEAPOLIS



BY KASSIDY TARALA

Photo courtesy of BigStock/Yastremska

Divorce Without A Disaster

Divorce lawyer Becky Moshier provides advice for GLBT couples navigating divorce.

Becky Moshier of Moshier Law Office, PLLC is an expert in the legal procedure of divorce. However, most people who go through divorce themselves struggle to understand the complicated web of finances, familial matters, property, and more. Divorce is often messy and difficult, but it can be even harder for GLBT couples, especially those with children. To help couples navigate this trying time, Moshier has offered some advice to follow.

Moshier says it is important to first determine if the dissolution is amicable or not. If it is, Moshier suggests that each individual write down a list of issues to discuss together. Then, the couple needs to decide which issues can be resolved within the relationship and which need to be drafted in paperwork for the court.

"If you disagree on some issues, do you think some form of ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) such as mediation would be helpful? Mediators are often attorneys that have had special training to assist people in resolving disputes," Moshier says. "However, you need to understand that mediation can be expensive as most mediators charge by the hour and the hourly rate is often comparable to what a divorce attorney would charge."

Moshier says to be aware that many paralegal services offered online are not the equivalent of lawyers and cannot offer legal advice.

"I would also caution anyone with complicated assets or debts that it would be unwise to draft the paperwork themselves. If you know that you will need the assistance of a lawyer, then look for referrals and interview several prospective lawyers before you decide on a lawyer to assist you," she says.

For GLBT couples, Moshier says there aren't many differences from straight couples going through divorce. However, she says it can sometimes be difficult if a GLBT couple has children.

"For GLBT couples that have adopted children by only one parent or had a child through assisted reproduction technology, there are many issues that may arise, especially if they did not have legal documents drafted by a lawyer prior to the process. Lawyers can be your best friend when you have complicated issues of child rearing and financial responsibility," Moshier says.

Many couples have children through in-vitro fertilization (IVF), which Moshier says can have different outcomes in a divorce based on the legal relationship each parent has with the children.

"It depends on if the couple has already taken steps to formalize their relationship with the children prior to adopting or conceiving the children through IVF. I cannot stress strongly enough that you need the agreement in writing and not a handshake deal in matters so vital as the well-being of your children," Moshier says. "I would encourage any GLBT couple to seek the assistance of a lawyer with experience in adoption or IVF as it is a very specialized practice."

Moshier says she offers a free consultation service to potential clients to discuss the divorce process and answer any questions that the couple might have.

"I ask each client to fill out a comprehensive worksheet that compiles basic personal and financial information necessary to draft the divorce documents. I go over this document with the client in person to make sure it's accurate and discuss any potential problems or areas of concern," she says.

For more information about the process of divorce, to schedule a free consultation with Moshier, or to learn more about the other services of her law firm, visit her website at moshierbankruptcylaw.com. ■

uptown dermatology & skinspa p.a.

Education • Experience • Excellence
...with a smile!

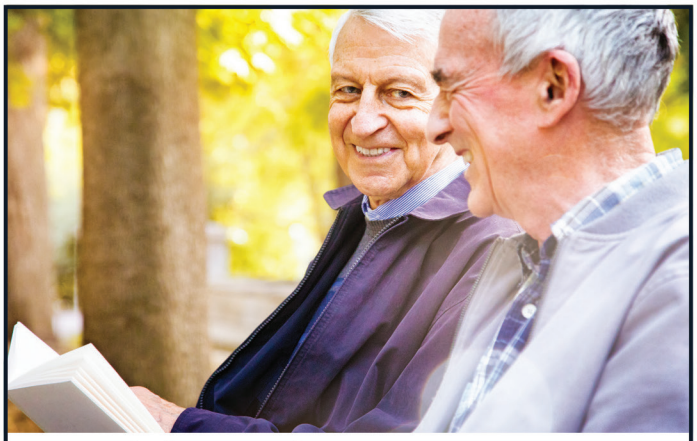
Jaime Davis, MD, FAAD
Mayo Trained, Board Certified, Award Winning Dermatologist

Nadine Miller, M.P.A.S., PA-C
Physician Assistant in Dermatology

Angela Rohland, C-FNP
Dermatology Nurse Practitioner

- Appointments within ONE week
- All major insurance accepted
- Fully credentialed & licensed providers

Uptown Row, Suite 208 • 1221 W. Lake Street • Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-455-3200 • www.UptownDermatology.com



We understand that caring for each other

is truly an art...

When caring for someone you love means getting them the support & assistance they need, choose a Community that offers the very best in care and services in the best location possible.

Let's talk about **The Terraces at Abiitan's** unique ***All-inclusive Assisted Living rate*** and ***Lifetime Price-lock**** and what that could mean for *you* and *your loved one*.

Call us at 612.504.5202

**This spe cial pricing offer is limited.*
Call for all of the details.

THE TERRACES AT ABIITAN

55+ Independent Living
Assisted Living | Memory Care

612.504.5202
www.abiitan.org

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

428 South 2nd Street Minneapolis, MN 55401

Crossing Paths (And Paths And Paths)

The love story of Eric and Chris Herr-Madsen was meant to be written from the very start.

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Eric Herr, who worked professionally in theater for more than 18 years and currently works in customer service for a utility company, met Chris Madsen, who worked at the Minnesota Children's Museum for more than 7 years, in various theater marketing and audience service positions, and currently works as a Clinique counter manager at Macy's in Mall of America, and the couple immediately bonded over a shared interest in performing arts.

Though Eric and Chris didn't meet until the two talked online and planned a dinner and movie date in Uptown, they found out that their paths had been crossing long before their first date.

"We discovered we could have met numerous times over the past five years in St. Paul because our jobs were on the same block, we took the same buses downtown, ate at the same lunch places, and lived in the same Grand Avenue neighborhood! It wasn't until Eric moved to Uptown that the fates decided to let us finally meet," Chris says.

Chris says the first date was spent discussing their favorite live shows, movies, and TV shows. During the movie, it was clear to Chris that Eric was someone to hold onto.

"Time flew during dinner, and we almost missed the movie. During the film, we started to hold hands, and I don't remember much of the movie after that," Chris says. "All I could think of was how right that hand felt and how I wanted to keep on holding it. The popcorn was quite neglected."

Eric, on the other hand, says he was plagued by first date jitters, but soon after meeting Chris, all of his nervousness melted away.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

"I was so nervous, here was this handsome man who agreed to go on a date with me. I just remember not knowing if we'd have anything to talk about. Once the date started, I forgot to even be nervous as the conversation just fell into place," he says. "[We discussed] our likes, friends, work, and before we knew it we were watching *Melinda, Melinda* at the Lagoon Theatre, holding hands, and perhaps a good night kiss! After that first date, I knew this guy was special and I really wanted to see him again."

Before long, Chris and Eric were ready to tie the knot while camping at Gooseberry Falls in 2007 with some friends and their young daughter Natalie.

"One day we were walking along Pebble Beach, and she asked, 'Where does Eric sleep?' Her mother responded, 'You know how mommy and daddy love each other and sleep in our room together? Well, so do Eric and Chris. They love each other very, very much, so Eric sleeps in the bedroom with Chris,'" Eric says. "Natalie took a long pause, thinking very intently, and finally she responded, 'So, that must make you husband and husband!'"

In that moment, Eric decided that he was going to ask Chris to marry him, and he was going to ask him on the shores of Pebble Beach.

"I had planned a very romantic Valentine's Day weekend at the Grand Superior Lodge. The big plan was to go on a cross county luminary ski through Gooseberry Falls and a hike on Pebble Beach the next day. What I couldn't have predicted was the fact that it was 64 degrees that weekend and snow had melted, so the skiing became a beautiful hike through Gooseberry," Eric says. "The following morning, as we were headed to Split Rock, I realized I couldn't wear my jacket as it was much too warm for that and had to do my best to hide the ring. There on the shores of Pebble Beach, I started talking about the last time we were there and the wise words that young Natalie had spoken, at that moment I got down on my knee and asked my best friend Chris to marry me."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

ELEMENT
WOOD FIRE PIZZA
96 BROADWAY ST. NE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
(612) 379-3028
WWW.ELEMENTPIZZA.COM
Bring this ad in and receive 10% off your order.

Swedish Motors
Our Motto: Do it right or not at all!
The Twin Cities' premiere independent Volvo Sales & Repair Shop
Exceptional Customer Service
Keen Attention to Detail
Please consider us for all of your Volvo needs and refer your friends!
Justin Christenson
Owner
432 11th Ave. S. • Hopkins
Conveniently located off Hwy 169 & Excelsior Blvd.
(612) 803-5661
www.swedishmotorsmn.com

DOWNTOWN DOGS
DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS' BEST DOG DAYCARE & BOARDING!
WE'RE LOCATED AT 821 2ND AVE N MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405
NOW OFFERING EXPANDED GROOMING SERVICES!
LITTLE OR BIG
IRISH WOLFHOUND OR CHIHUAHUA
WE ACCEPT ALL BREEDS AT DOWNTOWN DOGS
OPEN UNTIL 9:00 PM EVERY NIGHT
[612] 374-3647
WWW.DTDOGS.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/DOWNTOWN-DOGS-DOG-DAYCARE-AND-BOARDING

NOT JUST GOOD BUT GREAT!
Our own recipes, our own twists, our cocktails to help brighten your
Fall
Two Happy Hours
8-10 AM & 3-6 PM
$5 Big Ol' Mimosas and Bloody Marys
$4 Premium Rails
$3 All Taps & House Wine
$2 OFF All Apps & Tap Cocktails
$1 OFF Signature Cocktails
Delivery available!
www.thenicolletdiner.com/delivery
24 Hours a Day EVERY DAY with a FULL BAR from 8 AM-1 AM
THE NICOLLET DINER
Stop by for your coffee, latte, espresso, muffins, etc in the Muffin Top Cafe
MUFFIN TOP CAFÉ
1428 Nicollet Ave., Mpls • 612-399-6258 • www.thenicolletdiner.com • muffintopcafe.com

Soon after, the couple was celebrating their love with 250 of their closest friends at their outdoor garden wedding. Their wedding party was comprised of friends they had known for 25 years or more, and Eric's sister was his best lady.

"During the reception, guests enjoyed dining from Potter's Pasties food truck and a table of appetizers, continued to play lawn games, enjoyed activities, and, after toasts and an amazing beat poem by some friends from Ireland, everyone enjoyed the Doughnut Wall for dessert. Hay rides and a s'mores bonfire rounded out the evening along with all the dancing," Chris says.

Eric says they like to call it their "DIY wedding" because they, with the help of many friends and family members, created the wedding decor themselves. Eric's father even designed and built the stage that they tied the knot on.

"Everyone was having such a good time, and it felt like it was the best theatrical production we had ever been a part of. The emotions of love and the feeling of belonging to something bigger than just that day were felt by everyone. We had been through quite a journey to get where we were, and everyone was so happy to see this union," Chris says.

After meeting in 2005, Eric and Chris are still celebrating the endless love that they share to this day. Eric says the love that he experienced on their wedding day—both from Chris and supportive family members—continues just as strongly every day with Chris as his husband. ■

Photographer: *Trina Moore*
Date of Wedding: *June 9, 2018*
Dating Since: *2005*
Location of Ceremony & Reception: *Grubbs Apple Acres, Forest Lake, MN*
Florist: *HyVee and Minneapolis Farmers Market*
Stylist: *Macy's, DSW, tietheknot.com*
Dessert: *HyVee*
Invitations: *Zazzle*
Music: *Blake Foster and Caitlynn Daniels*

MORE SOCIAL. LESS MEDIA.

PUNCH BOWL SOCIAL

FOOD DRINK

1691 Park Plaza Boulevard, St Louis Park
(763) 400-3865 : punchbowlsocial.com

Here's to Going Out Right

At The Start Of The River

Britnee Dordal and Kelsey Lied share details of their love story and wedding.

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Wanted: wedding date.

That's how Kelsey Lied, a software developer from the Chicago area, found her now-wife Britnee Dordal, an early childhood educator from Moorhead. Lied was going to be in a wedding and was determined to bring a date, no matter how she was going to have to go about that. After posting an online ad in search of a stranger to accompany her to the wedding, Dordal responded and agreed to be that date. The two spent time together before the wedding to make the date seem authentic, and in the time spent getting to know each other for what was supposed to be a one-night affair, the couple quickly developed deeper feelings.

"Our initial chemistry was kind of unusual and tentative given the situation, but it was also adventurous and up for anything for the same reason. We were willing to try whatever new things because there was no pressure to make it work. It was exciting and spontaneous and also a really direct attempt at getting to know one another," Dordal says.

Though the couple was brought together to keep up appearances at the wedding, Dordal says she and Lied began having more serious feelings for each other, but both were too afraid to jeopardize their wedding date plans to say anything before the wedding.

"We started to fall for each other a little while before the wedding that we met to attend and had to keep it under wraps. What if it wasn't mutual and revealing feelings screwed up the plan?! We broke the ice on the drive back from the wedding and luckily everything worked out," Dordal says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Fast forward to September 2016, and the couple was ready to recreate the initial wedding date, but it was going to be their wedding this time.

"We were camping in Itasca State Park where the Mississippi River starts. We'd been talking about engagement for a while, but suddenly over lunch, the discussion turned to how the birthplace of the Mississippi would be a really cool place to get engaged. So we did it! We hiked to the headwaters, said some heartfelt things, and enjoyed the rest of the weekend together before telling our families and friends," Dordal says.

Lovers of the great outdoors, Lied and Dordal had scenic wedding nestled in the trees of Minnetonka Orchards.

"It was in the early evening, so the sun was just starting to set. It was a beautiful early summer night, and the weather could not have been better. A friend of ours officiated a short heartfelt ceremony that included a ring warming to involve our families and friends in our union," Dordal says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

We're the health plan
figure-outers.
De-mystifiers.
And **de-complicators.**
We're for the small towns.
Uptowns. Downtowns.
And out of towns.

We are UCare.

ucare℠
people powered health plans

Medicare Individual & Family Medicaid **ucare.org**

You found the one, let us do the rest!
Ceremony & reception at one location. No need to be a member!

BEARPATH™
golf and country club

Please visit our website at www.bearpathgolf.com or contact
Kim Davis or Katie Dix in our Catering Office at (952) 975.5252

PAL ZILERI

SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

GOLDEN GOOSE

JULIA KNIGHT COLLECTIONS

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS

MARTINPATRICK 3 STUDIO

Interior design, fine home furnishing, and beautiful men's apparel.
Experience for yourself the classic and contemporary brought artfully together.

MARTINPATRICK3

THE NORTH LOOP | MPLS | 612-746-5329 | MARTINPATRICK3.COM

The reception was also at Minnetonka Orchards in a large tent perfect for eating, dancing, and celebrating love. Guests were encouraged to explore the grounds, including some baby goats that Dordal says she and Lied were too busy to see for themselves.

"Dinner was buffet-style, and we did a couple toasts and the traditional dances, and then there were lawn games set up outside and dancing in the tent. We socialized and had a great time until late into the night," she says.

Dordal says the couple was elated to officially tie the knot, and all the two can remember are feelings of happiness and excitement from the big day.

"They aren't kidding when everybody says it goes by in a flash, but we didn't feel rushed. We had some nerves as the ceremony neared, but we really tried to stay in the moment and overall had a great time," she says.

After the wedding, Dordal says the couple was overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support from everybody that attended, and they were grateful to be surrounded by love on their big day.

From an online ad in need for a wedding date to the start of the Mississippi River to the cozy outdoor setting of the Minnetonka Orchards, Dordal and Lied have been through it all together. Looking back now, the couple is definitely not lacking in good memories.

Wanted: forever together. ■

Photographer: *Autumn Lee Studios*
Date of Wedding: *June 1, 2018*
Dating Since: *August 2014*
Location of Ceremony & Reception: *Minnetonka Orchards*
Florist: *Foxglove Market & Studio*
Wedding Coordinator: *Devoted Designs*
Stylist: *SoCoJo Makeup + Hair*
Music: *Adagio DJ*

WELLS FARGO

Financial options for every phase of your life

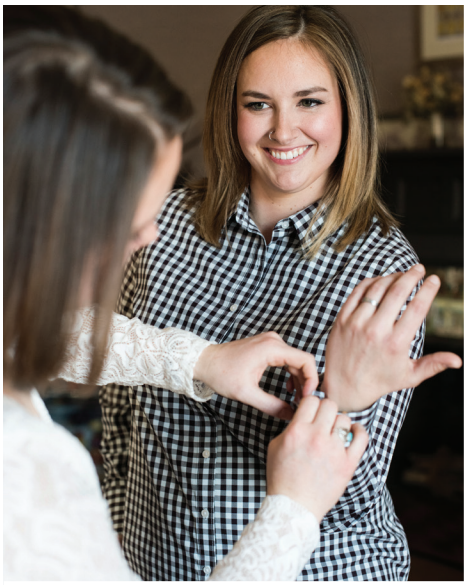
Whether you want to save for the future, secure a personal loan, utilize exclusive online and telephone banking services, or enjoy the convenience of our ATMs and many locations, we are here for you. Call, click, or stop by and talk with a banker.

wellsfargo.com

Together we'll go far

All loans are subject to application, credit qualification, and income verification.
© 2017 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. (3946303_20048)

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX



AMY SCHRECENGOST & MARY ELLENBERGER

Photographer: Melissa Hesse of Rivets and Roses
Date of Wedding: Feb. 10, 2018
Dating Since: April 2017
Location of Ceremony & Reception: The New Victorian Mansion; W.A Frost
Florist: Fleur de Lis Fresh Flowers
Stylist: Lindsay Dukes from Lindsay Dukes Artistry
Cake: W.A. Frost
Invitations: Handmade by Amy
Music: Atom Robinson

50th Anniversary Production!

Now Playing!

Irving Berlin's

HOLIDAY INN

Michael Gruber, Ann Michels, Jessica Fredrickson, Tony Vierling

The regional premiere of the new song and dance-fueled musical featuring 20 Irving Berlin classics!

50 YEARS

Chanhassen DINNER THEATRES

952.934.1525 ChanhassenDT.com

All-Inclusive Wedding Packages

Call for Details.

Celebrate your special occasion at one of the Twin Cities' most reasonably priced and accommodating wedding & event venues!

952.934.1524 | Weddings.ChanhassenDT.com | randerson@chanhassendt.com |

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX

TODD ROUDABUSH & JESSE TORGERSON

Photographer: Nicole McCoy of Rivets and Roses
Date of Wedding: Jan. 11, 2018
Dating Since: Jan. 11, 2003
Location of Ceremony & Reception: 112 Eatery
Florist: Luna Vinca
Stylist: Michael Stahl, Evolution
Cake: 112 Eatery
Invitations: Designed by Janie May, Produced by Minted
Music: Tom Matchinsky

"AS OSCAR WILDE, RUPERT EVERETT LIFTS *THE HAPPY PRINCE* INTO THE STRATOSPHERE."
-David Edelstein, NEW YORK MAGAZINE

RUPERT EVERETT
COLIN FIRTH
COLIN MORGAN
EDWIN THOMAS
AND EMILY WATSON

THE HAPPY PRINCE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
RUPERT EVERETT

R

WWW.SONYCLASSICS.COM
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
LANDMARK EDINA CINEMA
3911 W 50th Street
(952) 920-8796

VIEW THE TRAILER AT WWW.THEHAPPYPRINCE-FILM.COM

Visit BigGayNews.com for your weekday news featuring Local, National and International GLBT News.

BIG GAY NEWS .COM

With more than 80,000 followers on Twitter, BigGayNews.com is your source for GLBT news.

STANDARD HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Cozy up to Fall Sale

Save $1,300 or more on a new high-efficiency furnace or boiler

$0 DOWN
0% INTEREST
FOR 25 MONTHS (OAC)

› Family-Owned Since 1930
› Smart Club™ Maintenance Plan
› Service On All Brands

YORK
INSTALL CONFIDENCE

Contact Us Today! | 612-503-8090 | standardheating.com

On approved credit. Not valid with any other offer. Installation must be completed by 10/31/18.

InVision
distinctive eyewear

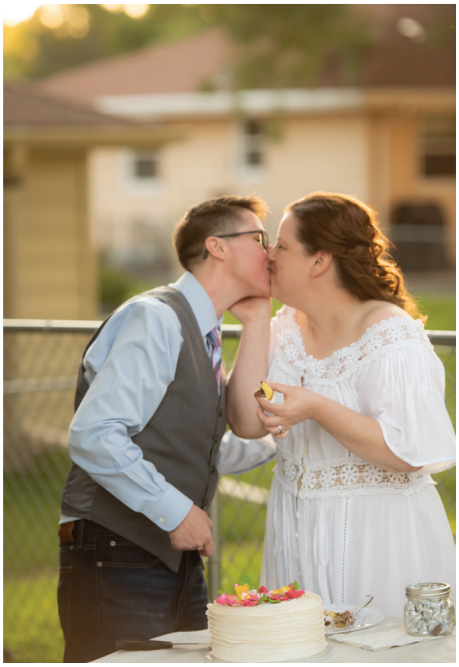
North Loop - Galleria - Minnetonka - Grand Avenue
Locally owned. Independent designers.
Handmade Quality + Personal Service

[REAL WEDDINGS]

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX

SARAH & JODI HIRSCHFIELD

Photographer: Autumn Lee of Autumn Lee Studios
Date of Wedding: Sept. 7, 2018
Dating Since: May 7, 2013
Location of Ceremony & Reception: Richfield, MN (Backyard of Sarah's mother)
Florist: Minneapolis Farmers Market
Stylist: Chammi Peterson
Cake: HyVee, Eagan, MN
Invitations: "Love At Every Sight" Etsy shop



Make sure your business, organization or event is part of

LAVENDER'S 2019 PRIDE PAGES!

Minnesota's annual GLBT guide featuring GLBT-friendly businesses, organizations and wedding resources.

Deadline: December 12, 2018
Published: January 3, 2019

Call 612-436-4660
to speak with a sales executive and reserve your space today.

Costumes Plus®
The largest selection of costumes
and costume accessories
For the Entire FAMILY
For Any Occasion
Open Year-Round
www.costumes-plus.com
Tel. (651)-748-1185
2839 White Bear Ave. N Maplewood, MN

fiant dental presents
BINGO A GO GO

FRIGHT NIGHT BINGO

Enter the Costume Contest if you dare!

HOSTED BY
Miss Richfield 1981

FEATURING...
BARBIE Q
GOSH ALICE JONES
BEBE GALLINI
MAXIE

PLAY THE BIG GAME FOR A CHANCE TO TAKE HOME $1,000

Advanced Tickets at
frightnightbingo.eventbrite.com

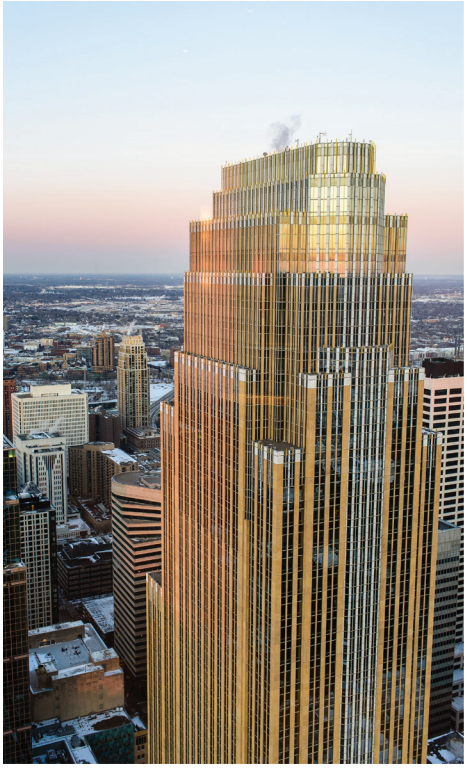
Saturday SLAY
OCT 27TH

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS
Doors: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7 p.m.
$35 in advance
$45 at door

A HAUNTED BENEFIT FOR
clare housing
Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

Questions? Bingo Hotline: (612) 248-2971

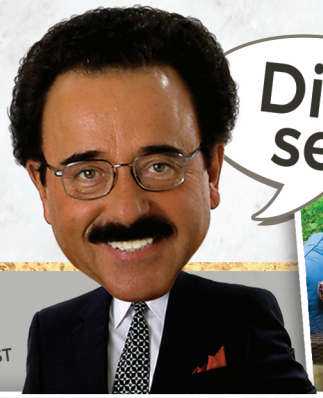
PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX



AMBER & SYDNEY PORTER

Photographer: Autumn Lee Studios (with Ian Hanson)
Date of Wedding: Jan. 13, 2018
Dating Since: 2013
Location of Ceremony & Reception: Windows on Minnesota
Florist: Regina Cannon – Belladonna Florist
Wedding Coordinator: Eric Walsh – Marquette Hotel Wedding Coordinator
Stylist: Tanner J
Cake: Buttercream

Explore our Family "Fantasy" Outdoor Living!



Dick Enrico
GREETER & HOST

Decorators, Designers, & Architects Welcome!

2ndShade™
PATIO FURNITURE

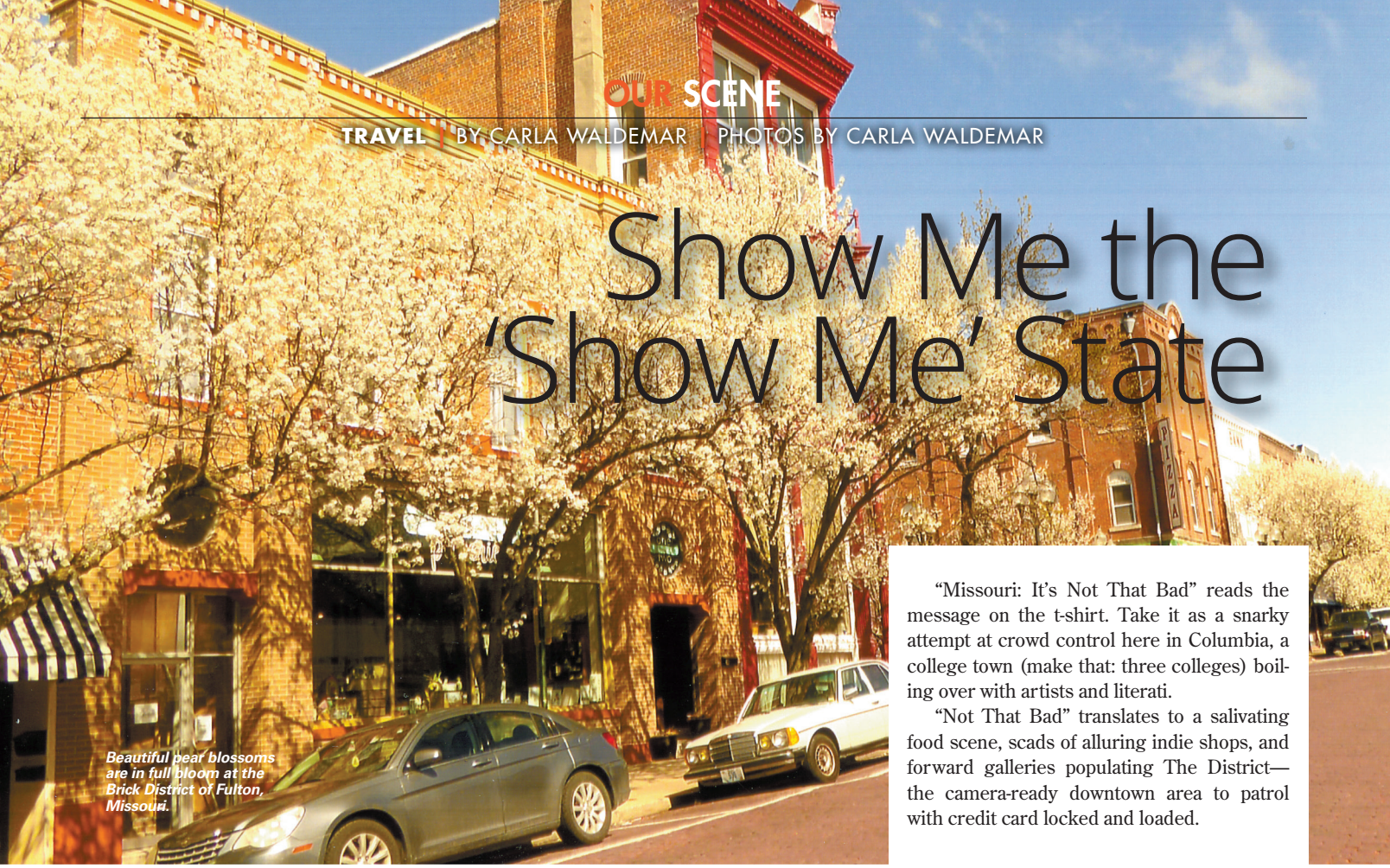
Visit our 40,000 sq ft Showroom!

Budget Payments • Trades Welcome

15102 Minnetonka Industrial Rd, • Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-444-5500 • 2ndshade.com
New • Used • Rental • Repairs • Storage

TRAVEL | BY CARLA WALDEMAR | PHOTOS BY CARLA WALDEMAR

Show Me the 'Show Me' State



Beautiful pear blossoms are in full bloom at the Brick District of Fulton, Missouri.

"Missouri: It's Not That Bad" reads the message on the t-shirt. Take it as a snarky attempt at crowd control here in Columbia, a college town (make that: three colleges) boiling over with artists and literati.

"Not That Bad" translates to a salivating food scene, scads of alluring indie shops, and forward galleries populating The District—the camera-ready downtown area to patrol with credit card locked and loaded.

Columbus' Acme T-shirt Company offers up a snarky sense of humor with its wares.

Peel out of your hotel room at the hipster Broadway, where hallways sing with bird chirps, and stroll to the North Village Arts District—where, after a classic ("since 1934") diner breakfast at Ernie's ("Everybody Loves Ernie's" is its fact-checked slogan), catch the forward Cuban paintings headlining at Sager Braudis Gallery. Snag an outlandish gift at Artlandish (think: repurposed Scrabble boards, upcycled candles); peruse North Village Artists Studios, each boasting a uniquely decorated door; pop into Wildy's World (slogan: "Do you need a mural on your walls?").

Center back to Acme for your statement t-shirt (another broadcasts: "Current Family Favorite"). Peruse Bluestem for creative Missouri crafts (leather journals, tweed owl, quilted "bonbons") and Fine Arts/Antiques for Deco orange-and-chartreuse sunglasses and Mad Men briefcases. Go to Yellow Dog for used-book treasures and Tallulah for contempo kitchenware. Fuel up at Lakota Coffee after a doughnut stop at Harold's or cone (scratch "or;" the appropriate term is "and") at Sparky's (spicy chocolate to lavender and honey) with a gander at bad art on its walls and crocheted animals in the cooler case. The Blue Note wafts jazz from a 1927 theater. Plenty of vintage shops too, from duds to vinyl.

Then wander to the campus of Mizzou (a.k.a. University of Missouri), with its iconic line of Grecian columns saved from a long-ago fire, and Stephens College, whose Costume Museum showcases clothes from the 1750s to tomorrow. Its current exhibition spotlights the works of Victor Costa, "king of the copycats", who borrowed from haute couture for pieces at affordable prices. He dressed the Bush family for George H.W. Bush's Inaugural Ball; also Meryl Streep. I just missed the show called "The Joan Crawford Effect".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

But I didn't miss a dinner stop at Sycamore, whose bar and tables, created from warm Missouri walnut, showcase small plates of the state's farmstead cheeses or gnocchi studded with sugar snap peas and pea shoots, and a $30 prix fixe which segues from lively greens to ale-braised short ribs to flourless chocolate cake or creme brulee. Did I mention designer cocktails?

Barred Owl ("Whooo cooks for you?") debuted in 2016 as a butcher shop-cum-mecca for don't-miss eats that start with homemade dinner rolls; deviled egg loaded with country ham and pea shoots; and crocks of pimiento cheese, on to entrees that climax in a plate of spicy shrimp & grits or veal rib chop with roasted brussel sprouts and bacon. Uprise is a hippie 2.0 bakery café dealing in super soups and salads, too. And don't miss tiny, under the radar Café Poland, where Ilona will feast you with pierogi, borscht and espresso, just like in her homeland.

Not only is Columbia a college town, it's a festival town. I was on hand for Unbound, its book festival. Others careen from film fest Citizen Jane, celebrating women in film, to True/False—an iconic documentary spree—and Roots N Blues N BBQ. Check out www.visitcolumbiamo.com to get going. Added inducements: gay bars Arch & Column—quiet (until karaoke night), and Yin Yang—flashier, with dance floor and drag shows.

Sparky's is considered by many to be the best ice cream shop in Columbus, Missouri.

FORWARD TO FULTON

Fulton punches above its weight. The small (pop. 13,000) town 30 miles from Columbia sports an iconic museum, European monuments, two colleges, arty businesses with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

Divorce Mediation with
Steve Burns, Ph.D.

Civil separations with reasonable solutions for the LGBT Community going through divorce.

By appointment **612-990-0649**

Northland Theraphy Center

Convenient Midway Location
2324 University Ave. W., Stuite 100

LAVENDER

Like us
facebook.com/LavenderMagazine

BW
Best Wishes Floral

Your Floral Design Specialists!
Special Events • Weddings • Funerals • Deliveries
Wire Service Available!

WWW.BWFLORAL.COM

689 WINNETKA AVE. N. • GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427
763.593.1777 • TOLL FREE: 888.893.7950 • INFO@BWFLORAL.COM

TJB Homes, Inc.

REINVENT
REVIVE
REDESIGN

763.780.2944 • TJBRemodeling.com • Jason@TJBhomes.com

JASON T. BUDZYNSKI
TJB Homes Remodeling

Lead-Safe EPA Certified Firm
NAT-106860-1

City Bath Crashers

QB102000

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

The Aliveness Project
Community Center for individuals living with HIV/AIDS – on-site meals, food shelf, and supportive services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433)
www.aliveness.org

U of MN HIV Research Studies
Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue
Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum
Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build & partner for a diverse business community.
18 N. 12th St., Ste. 3606
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

EVENT VENUES

Landmark Center
A classic venue, with a grand cortile and beautiful courtrooms, accommodates celebrations of all sizes.
75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 292-3228
www.landmarkcenter.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Clinic 555, St. Paul
Confidential, low cost sexual health clinic in downtown St. Paul. Now offering PrEP services!
555 Cedar St., Fl. 1
St. Paul, MN
(651) 266-1255
clinic555.org

Family Tree Clinic
LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health services to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Red Door Clinic
Sexual health care for all people. Get confidential tests & treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave., 4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 543-5555
www.reddoorservices.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

KFAI Radio - 90.3 FM (MPLS) 106.7 FM (STP)
Home of "Fresh Fruit", the longest running weekly Queer radio show in the country, celebrating 40 years! Listen on air or online.
Bailey Building - 1808 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
(612) 341-3144
www.KFAI.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums
Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans.
www.mnhs.org

MUSIC

Radio K - Real College Radio
Radio K (KUOM) is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota.
610 Rarig Center 330 21st Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-3500
www.RadioK.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Children's Theatre Company
Children's Theatre Company creates theatre that educates, challenges and inspires. Values: Imagination, Excellence, Respect, Inclusion.
2400 3rd Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

Hennepin Theatre Trust
Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres
Twin Cities' best live entertainment: Broadway shows, music concerts, comedy, dance and more!
Minneapolis, MN
1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

Minnesota Orchestra
Enriching, inspiring and serving our community as a symphony orchestra internationally recognized for artistic excellence.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-5656
(800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Minnesota Opera
World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty: breathtaking music, stunning costumes, and extraordinary sets. Performances at the Ordway Music Theater – 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 333-6669
mnopera.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
An award-winning chorus building community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
528 Hennepin Ave., Ste. 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

PRIDE

Twin Cities Pride
Producers of the third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, board members. Contact us today.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 402-7
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 255-3260
www.tcpride.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Central Lutheran Church
Exploring the promise of God for all.
333 S. 12th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 870-4416
www.centralmpls.org

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Everyone is welcome at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Community. Bold Outreach.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

Parkview United Church of Christ
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
3737 Bellaire Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 429-3346
www.mnparkviewucc.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming. Find us on Facebook and Twitter
1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you.
519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

St. Paul's Lutheran & Mizpah United Church of Christ
Worshiping together 10:00 am on Sundays. Come and experience the embrace of God's YES for all!
412 5th Ave. N.
Hopkins, MN
(952) 935-5509
www.churchoffice@mizpahucc.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches
Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

TRAVEL

Visit Duluth
Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events.
21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100
Duluth, MN
(218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH
www.visitduluth.com

Visit Winona
Cool theater, arts and music scene, foodie bliss, outdoor recreation paradise. Surprisingly weird. Incredibly entertaining.
160 Johnson St.
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-0735
www.visitwinona.com

ZOO

International Wolf Center
Our world famous Center features daily programs, award-wining exhibits, and live ambassador wolves.
1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-4695
www.wolf.org

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

ATTORNEYS

JEAN M. GUSTAFSON - Estate Law: Probate & Trust, Guardianship & Conservatorship, Child Protection, Mental Health Law. Licensed: Minnesota, South Dakota, Utah. MN Lavender Bar Association Greater Minnesota Fellowship Recipient, 2017. (218) 454-2039, GusLaw.net.

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

GUN SHOPS

HOME SERVICES

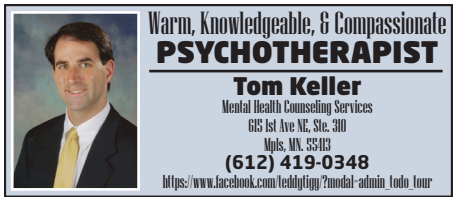
HOME SERVICES

ARCH-TECH LANDSCAPING & MATERIALS. All phases of gardening and landscaping. We sell and deliver compost, black dirt, gravel rock and mulch. Gay owned and operated. (651) 450-9178, (651) 271-7462 or botanybob@hotmail.com.

INSURANCE

INSURANCE

PSYCHOTHERAPY



REAL ESTATE

TAX SERVICES

ADVERTISER INDEX

Apparel & Accessories
Costumes Plus 41
MartinPatrick....3
ID Inside Design/
Walsh Design Group....33
Arts & Entertainment
Chanhassen Dinner
Theatres 37
Live Nation 44
Ordway Center for
the Performing Arts 35
Automotive
Swedish Motors 27
Bakeries
Amy's Cupcake Shoppe 47
Bars & Nightlife
Gay 90's 46
The Happy Gnome 11
Event Venues
Bearpath Golf &
Country Club 33
Event Venues & Services
Lake Elmo Inn Event
Center 17
Landmark Center 10
Nicollet Island Inn 11
The Woman's Club of
Minneapolis 23
Events
Bingo A Go Go 41
Lavender's First
Thursdays 51
Magnolia Blossom
Charter Cruises 15
Financial
Associated Bank 5
Wells Fargo Bank 35
Floral & Garden
Best Wishes Floral 47
Health & Wellness
Abiitan Mill City 23
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Minnesota 3
Steve Burns, PH. D. 47
Mill District Dental 8
Mint Orthodontics 9
UCare 33
Uptown Dermatology
& SkinSpa 23
Home Furnishings & Accessories
2nd Shade Patio
Furniture 43
Habitation 7
Scheiderman's Furniture 2
Home Services
All Energy Solar 46
House Lift Remodeler 45
Standard Heating
& Air Conditioning 39
TJB Homes
Remodeling 47
Ice Cream
Fletcher's Ice Cream 21
Insurance
Bartell, Dawn 9
Jewelry
New Gild Jewelry 17
Arthur's Jewelers....7
Diamonds Direct 19
Jewelry by Johan 15
Max's 21
Scheherazade
Jewelers 9
Media & Communications
Radio K–Real College
Radio 11
Military
Minnesota National
Guard 9
Optical
InVision 39
Pet Products & Services
Downtown Dogs 27
Political
Calandra Revering
for Ramsey County Judge 9
Real Estate & Rentals
Amy Ruzick, Kay
Johnson–RE/MAX Results 8
Restaurants
Element Wood Fire Pizza 27
Emily's Lebanese Deli 21
Hoban Korean BBQ 45
Nicollet Diner 27
Punch Bowl Social 29
Wilde Cafe & Spirits 7
Sports & Recreation
Brookview Golden
Valley 15
Travel & Accommodations
Breezy Point Resort &
Conference Center 10
Celebrity Cruises 15
Grand Hotel
Minneapolis 21
Hyatt Regency by
Mall of America 17
Millennium Hotel
Minneapolis 19
Odyseey Resorts 13
Wedding Resources
Bluefin Bay 3
The Wedding Guys 4

The iconic pillars, the survivors of a disastrous fire, stand tall on the campus of the University of Missouri.

worldwide clients, and a brick-paved downtown district brightened by arcades of pear trees dressed in blossoms.

Credit goes first to Westminster. It's an elite university, similar to Minnesota's Carleton, with a history of inviting illustrious notables to deliver its annual lecture. In 1946, they decided—what the heck?—to invite Winston Churchill. To weigh in on the invitation, then-President Truman penned a footnote: "Come!" And the great Brit complied. He delivered what became his famous Iron Curtain speech, igniting the Cold War.

To honor the occasion, the National Churchill Museum was founded. It documents the story of his life: a lonely childhood followed by not college, he wasn't the type: rather, military academy (after he'd failed its entrance exams. Twice.) He went on to oversee Britain's fleet during World War I (another failure), then a career in Parliament, when he foresaw Hitler's dangerous rise. Then London's blitz, and more.

Newsreels cover Fulton's motorcade and address, abetted by artifacts from his life and some of Churchill's paintings. The Midwest premiere of *Darkest Hour* was held here. Other speakers, over the years, include luminaries from J. Edgar Hoover to Gorbachev. Like moi, many overnighted at the Loganberry Inn (Margaret Thatcher, Polish premier Lech Walesa), whose owner has stories to tell over breakfast.

Speaking of the Iron Curtain: cheeky little Fulton also asked for, and received, a segment of the Berlin Wall, now on display, and a historic church designed by London's starchitect of the 1600s, Christopher Wren. Walk right in.

Stroll over to The Brick District to discover the unexpected on the retail scene like oneCanoetwo, a letterpress whose artists create calendars, cards and fabrics (they also sell to Anthropologie). Or Unkamen, which sells jewelry supplies globally and onsite, including earrings created from watch faces and maps on cufflinks. Find sassy gifts at Smockingbird's and old-time sodas at Saults, a drugstore since 1937.

Dining? I admit I was a bit suspicious when invited to Fontinenot's for Cajun fare. But yes indeed, the proprietress hails from Lafayette, Louisiana, and so do her recipes—po' boys to gumbo, fried green tomatoes to fried oysters, backed by coffee shipped from Café du Monde. Same goes for Fulton Café, which showcases the cuisine of Cuba, where Jimmy's mom was raised. Proprietor Jimmy grew up in Miami's Cubano enclave and serves his puerco asado and carne con papas with sides of rice, black beans and plantains. Bek's goes all locovore with its tasty lamb chops, attended by ancho-roasted sweet potatoes and crème fraiche. Uber-cosmo cocktails, too. Go to www.VisitFulton.com for more information. ■

LAVENDER's

FIRST THURSDAYS

BUY A DRINK. MAKE A CONNECTION. HAVE FUN.

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 1 • 5:30 - 8:00 PM

The Office PUB & GRILL
ON WASHINGTON AVENUE

Honey I'm at the Office

THE OFFICE PUB & GRILL
307 WASHINGTON AVE. N • MINNEAPOLIS

TWIN CITIES GLBT HAPPY HOUR
ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES PLUS A CHANCE TO REGISTER TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

FEATURED NON-PROFITS:

the Aliveness project

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/CALENDAR/LAVENDERS-FIRST-THURSDAYS

THE World IS Open SALE

8 CONSECUTIVE YEARS | 2017 Best Cruise Line in Europe
Travel Weekly's 15th Annual Readers' Choice Awards

Enjoy unparalleled accommodations, experience incredible service, and dine in restaurants with menus crafted by our Michelin-starred chef, as we journey to some of the most idyllic destinations.

For a limited time, book a cruise to Europe departing through April 2020, and get something for everyone.

The first two guests in your stateroom, enjoy two free perks.*

The Perks:
- Classic Beverage Package
- Unlimited Wi-Fi
- Prepaid gratuities
- $150 to spend on board

Book a suite, and the first two guests get all FOUR perks.

Plus, additional guests in your stateroom or suite get 50% off their cruise fares.

Visit celebrity.com,
call 1-888-283-6374, or
contact your travel agent.

Celebrity X Cruises®

SAIL BEYOND BORDERS℠

* Visit celebrity.com for full terms and conditions. Cruise must be booked September 6 to October 3, 2018. Offer applies to select 4-night and longer cruises and Cruisetours departing October 10, 2018, to April 30, 2020. Galapagos and certain other itineraries are excluded. 50% Off: Savings apply to the cruise fares of the third and fourth passengers booked in a triple, quad, or family ocean view, veranda, Concierge Class, or Suite Class stateroom. The 50% Off savings offer component is not applicable to Alaska Cruisetours or Celebrity Explorations. Free Perks offer: Each of the first two guests in an ocean view through AquaClass®stateroom receives two complimentary amenities. Other amenities packages are available at additional charge. Each of the first two guests in a suite receives four amenities, with upgrade to Premium Beverage Package. Onboard credit is not redeemable for cash and expires on the final night of the cruise. Offer applies to new individual bookings and to staterooms in noncontracted group bookings, is nontransferable, and is not combinable with any other offer. Changes to a booking may result in removal of an offer. Offers and prices are subject to availability, cancellation, and change without notice at any time. ©2018 Celebrity Cruises. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.